

CPC Training Program News (1.23.2004)

CPC Training Program News is a bi-weekly electronic publication produced by the CPC Training Program Office. Comments and/or suggestions should be sent to Jan Hendrickson-Smith via e-mail at jhsmith@unc.edu.

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- 1. Transitions (and more)

Scott Brown and David Carr (CPC Postdocs) are both recipients of the 2003 UNC "Postdoctoral Awards for Research Excellence." Ten awards were made, each carrying an \$800 stipend. The stipend is intended to help postdoctoral scholars pay for their professional development needs, such as conference travel, written materials and skills workshops. "The volume of applicants -- 60 applicants in total -- was surprising in this, the award's inaugural year, and certainly highlights the need for additional funding for professional development activities for research scholars," said Melanie V. Sinche, director of the Office of Postdoctoral Services.

To learn more about the award and the Office of Postdoctoral Services, please visit: <http://research.unc.edu/ops/>

- 2. 2004-05 Training Program Applications Due February 2

All traineeship applications for 2004-05 are due no later than Monday, February 2. Applications are required for both funded and non-funded trainees, as well as for returning postdocs, regardless of funding support.

Application instructions for returning predocs may be found at:
<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/training/reapppredoc.html>.

A template is available on the sys2 network drive at:
[/wp/ski/backup/CPC Training/reapp_yourname_0405.doc](http://wp/ski/backup/CPC%20Training/reapp_yourname_0405.doc).

Additional information for IGERT applicants is available at:
http://www.cpc.unc.edu/training/igert_announce.html

Returning postdocs should submit a summary of progress to-date, plans for the upcoming year, and a support letter from their preceptor.

- 3. New Policy on Out-of-State Tuition Payments

The following policy concerning out-of-state tuition payments for funded, non-resident trainees was approved during the November 2003 meeting of the Training Committee. NOTE THAT THIS POLICY EXCLUDES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

Background:

CPC has historically covered the out-of-state portion of tuition payments for funded, non-resident trainees. In many cases, departmental tuition remission covered this portion of the tuition bill. With the threat of decreased availability of tuition remission slots combined with an increase in the number of out-of-state tuition payments, future CPC funded slots may be jeopardized.

New Policy:

"It is assumed that a trainee's home department will provide tuition remission when the department has slots available. If departmental slots are not available, the out-of-state portion of the trainee's tuition will be paid by CPC during the trainee's first year at UNC-Chapel Hill (subject to the limitation stated in all offer letters: "at least \$3,000, plus 60% of the amount over \$3000 for tuition"). Funded predoctoral trainees who are considered out-of-state for tuition purposes are expected to apply for in-state residency at the end of the first year and, as necessary, in subsequent years. International students are exempted from the requirement to seek in-state status.

In any given year, if a funded predoctoral trainee applies for, but is denied, in-state status, CPC may cover the out-of-state portion of the tuition payment during the student's second through fourth years. Under no circumstances will CPC pay the out-of-state portion of tuition during the second through fourth years if the student has not applied for in-state status."

Please contact Jan Hendrickson-Smith or Tom Heath with questions regarding the new policy.

4. Policy on Training in Research Ethics Requirement for Postdoctoral Scholars

During its November meeting, the Training Committee acknowledged that the "training in research ethics requirement" holds for postdoctoral scholars as well as predoctoral trainees. Please note that this is an agency-mandated requirement for our training grants.

The CPC research ethics requirement involves participation/attendance in four workshops/seminars per academic year. During 2003-04, four seminars which satisfy the requirement are, or will be, offered during the Friday series. Additional seminar opportunities may be found on the web at:
<http://www.cpc.unc.edu/training/meth.html>

Please contact Jan Hendrickson-Smith or Barbara Entwisle with any questions concerning this policy.

5. PAA Travel Advances Due by February 27

All travel advance requests for PAA are due no later than February 27. The advance request form is available on the web at http://www.cpc.unc.edu/services/admin/travel_advance.html. Please contact Lance with any questions concerning advances or reimbursement.

6. Upcoming Friday Seminars

On January 30, Dr. Ashu Handa (Associate Professor of Public Policy, UNC-CH), will present "Propensity Score Matching as a Nonexperimental Impact Estimator: Evidence from Mexico's Progresas" at noon in Room 405.

Linda Adair (Professor of Nutrition, CPC Fellow, and Chair of the SPH IRB) will present a research ethics seminar on February 6 at noon in Room 405. This seminar (title TBA) satisfies a research ethics workshop requirement for CPC Postdoctoral Scholars and Predoctoral Trainees.

Please consult the Training Program website for a list of all spring 2004 Friday seminars.

7. January TGIF: January 30

The January TGIF will be held on January 30, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Room 405.

8. New: CPC Working Group on Gender in Population Research

Interested in gender in population research? Interested in participating in a gender working group within the CPC? Working group meetings, held once or twice monthly, will be used to discuss emerging literature in the field or to discuss current and past research of the participants. All interested faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend an interest meeting on January 30 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 405. For more information, please contact Beth Sutherland at sutherla@email.unc.edu.

9. New: CPC Journal Club

A new journal club is being formed at CPC to examine the link between sociological and statistical modeling. The group will read 1-2 articles every two weeks and meet to discuss specifically how the statistical model was applied to answer a theoretical question. For example, Entwisle et al (1996) uses a multilevel logit model to examine individual, household, and community effects on contraceptive choice in Thailand. Why was this model chosen? What type of information can be derived from this model over alternatives? How does this model test theories of social networks discussed in the paper to individual choice?

These types of questions are important in both writing and designing studies. Statistical models to be examined will include multilevel models, structural equation models, spatial models, and others that people are interested in. If you are interested, please contact Bill Pan (wpan@bios.unc.edu) or David Carr (dccarr@isis.unc.edu). The inaugural meeting is planned for the first week of February. Look for details in your mailbox!

Reference:

Entwisle et al (1996). "Community and contraceptive choice in rural Thailand: A case study of Nang Rong." *Demography*, 33 (1) 1-11.

10. New: Directory of Classes Available on the Web

The Office of the University Registrar recently released a new web-based Online Registration Guide and Online Directory of Classes (<http://regweb.unc.edu/resources/directory.php>). The online guide and directory will replace the distribution of the printed version beginning with registration for the Fall 2004 semester.

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This online version reflects the most recent available information regarding course listings, exam schedules, tuition, and fees. In addition, there are convenient links to Student Central, the Course Search Engine, and other resources.

11. Copyright Law Website Available to Community

The campus Copyright Committee is pleased to announce a website for faculty and staff at <http://www.lib.unc.edu/copyright/>. Developed with funds from the Provost's office, the Committee has developed resources to educate faculty and staff about copyright, assist faculty members with decisions about what constitutes fair use, and gather campus policies on copyright. Links to outside organizations and copyright education websites combine with the other material to create an important resource for scholarship, teaching, and service.

Please contact Lolly Gasaway at laura_gasaway@unc.edu with suggestions for the website.

12. Population Council: Guidelines for Effective Data Presentations

A new PRB guide, "Connecting People to Useful Information: Guidelines for Effective Data Presentations," is now available on the web at <http://www.prb.org/connectingpeople>.

The guide gives practical advice and examples on the art of presenting data to nonspecialist audiences. It is intended for people whose positions require interpreting and disseminating information to a variety of audiences that may not be familiar with statistics. Potential users of the guide include staff of statistical offices, research institutions, public- and private-sector population and health programs, monitoring and evaluation units, donor agencies, and universities.

The guide contains two appendices with sample slides and reference material for preparing presentations in PowerPoint. The Dissemination Working Group of the MEASURE Program prepared this manual with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development. Partner Organizations included ORC Macro, Carolina Population Center, Population Reference Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention--Division of Reproductive Health.

13. Brown Bag Seminars: Family, School, and Work-Resources for Juggling Multiple Roles

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation and UNC's Office of Human Resources are jointly sponsoring a series of brown bag seminars for students, staff, and faculty with families or those hoping to start families. All seminars meet on Wednesdays at noon in Room 2518B of the Carolina Student Union. During spring 2004, the following sessions are planned:

- 1/28: "Financial Planning for Having a Family"
- 2/11: "Finding and Paying for Child Care and Summer Camp"
- 2/25: "Preconception and Prenatal Health"
- 3/17: "Alternatives for Starting a Family"
- 3/31: "Doing it All: Juggling School, Work, Partner, and Baby"
- 4/14: "Children's Nutrition and Fitness"

14. Funding Opportunity: Duke-Carolina Collaborations

The Robertson Scholars Collaboration Fund supports projects with the potential to initiate or enhance collaboration between Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill. Faculty, staff, and students on both campuses are eligible to apply. One-year grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded in this call for proposals. All proposals are due on April 19, 2004.

Direct questions via email to robertson@unc.edu. For further information on the fund and the application process visit: <http://www.robertsonscholars.org/collaboration/>.

15. Career Opportunity: NIA Postdoctoral Fellow at Penn State

The Population Research Institute at Penn State University expects to have one or two postdoctoral positions available beginning in June 2004. Funded by a training grant from the National Institute on Aging, these postdoctoral positions are for research training in the demography of aging. Postdoctoral positions are for one year, with re-appointment typically occurring for a second year.

The training program is oriented toward postdoctoral research apprenticeships in four broad areas:

- (1) aging, family, and the life course,
- (2) aging, health, and mortality,
- (3) the formal demography of aging, and
- (4) the biodemography of aging.

Postdoctoral fellows are expected to collaborate with program faculty in ongoing research projects and to conduct independent research under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Applicants must have a doctorate earned within the past five years in social or biomedical fields related

to the demography of aging, which may include sociology, anthropology, economics, epidemiology, population genetics, human development, and gerontology. A strong background in quantitative analysis of social science data is desired. Applications will be accepted immediately, or until the positions are filled. To insure full consideration, applications should be received by March 15, 2004. To apply, applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests, career plans, and the relevance of prior experiences to a training program in the demography of aging, and three letters of reference to:

Duane F. Alwin, Ph.D.
Population Research Institute
601 Oswald Tower
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802

Additional information about the program can be obtained by visiting the PRI web page at: www.pop.psu.edu/general/postdoc/postdoc_aging.html

16. Next TPN Publication Date: February 6, 2004

The next issue of the Training Program News will be delivered to your in-box on February 6.

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